

GEAR UP Program Update



Higher Education Coordinating Board
July 27, 2006

GEAR UP

- **GEAR UP** stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs
- **GEAR UP** provides college awareness and preparation activities to students in middle and high schools
- **GEAR UP** works with students from low-income, minority families
- **GEAR UP** is a federally funded program



U.S. Department of Education Requirements

- Services to needy students and families
- Professional development opportunities for teachers
- Sustainable school reforms and changes
- Dollar for dollar match in program

Politics of GEAR UP

- A \$303 million/year program, reaching one and a half million students
- Administration tried to eliminate GEAR UP and other college access programs such as TRIO
- Bipartisan support in Congress

GEAR UP Models

There are two kinds of GEAR UP programs:

- Partnership programs
- State GEAR UP programs

Partnership GEAR UP Programs

Partnership programs are collaborative projects among universities, school districts, and businesses

- Total federal funding: \$9.31 million/year
- Nine projects
- Serve 22,378 students
- No scholarship component

State GEAR UP Program

The governor appointed the HECB to manage Washington's State GEAR UP Program

- The state has received two, six-year grants:
 - Grant One: 1999-2005
 - Grant Two: 2005-2010

State GEAR UP Grants

Grant One (1999–2005)

- Total funding was \$19 million
- Served 11 school districts
- Partnered with the University of Washington and community based organizations
- 2,040 students received significant services:
 - 574 graduated from high school by 2004
 - 413 enrolled in college (73%)
 - 1,070 are still in high school

State GEAR UP Grants

Grant Two (2005–2010) Current Grant

- Total funding \$21 million over six years (\$3.5 million per year)
- Partnered with 12 school districts, University of Washington, and Washington Education Foundation
- Cohort approach vs. priority approach
- Controlled scholarship obligation (awarded in GET units)

Key Program Components

Current Grant

- Early start with clear goals (7th grade)
- Academic assessment and counseling
- Parental outreach
- College visit and summer experience
- Standardized tests preparation
- Teacher professional development
- Scholarships

GEAR UP Scholars Sites

Current Grant

School Name	Students	School Name	Students
Bellingham	100	Okanogan	75
Eastmont	100	Quincy	75
Everett	75	Vancouver	200
Federal Way	100	Wapato	100
Inchelium	10	Wenatchee	50
Monroe	50	West Valley	100

Partnership with Washington Education Foundation

GEAR UP supports site staff and mentoring

- Achievers Scholars
- HERO (Higher Education Readiness Opportunity)

Partnership with University of Washington

The University of Washington provides services under the state grant, and manages a separate partnership grant.

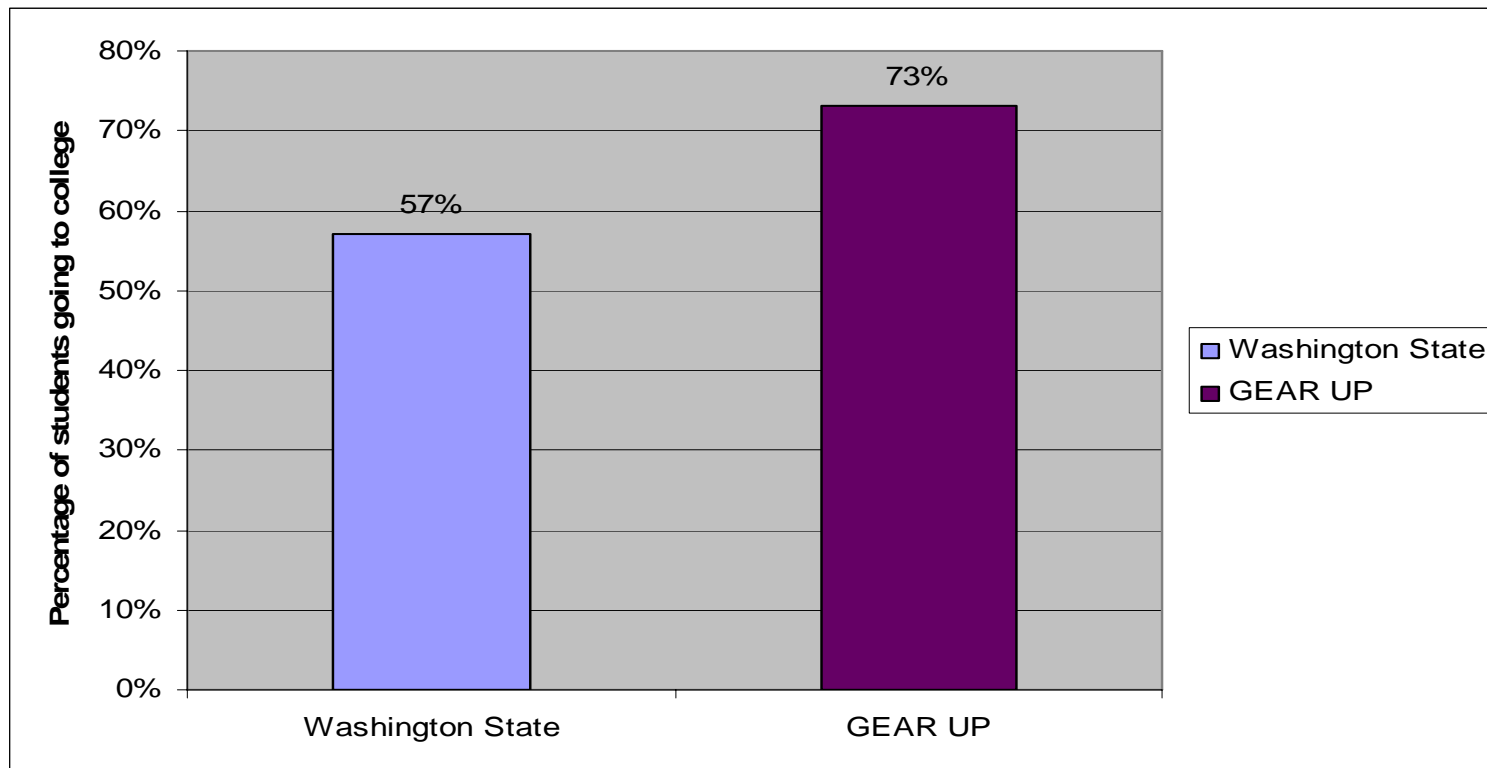
UW services include:

- Curriculum for instructional development
- Summer Institutes
- Honors Academy

GEAR UP Success

- Cadre of teachers have gone through professional development programs at University of Washington
- Parental outreach
- School involvement
- More students go on to college

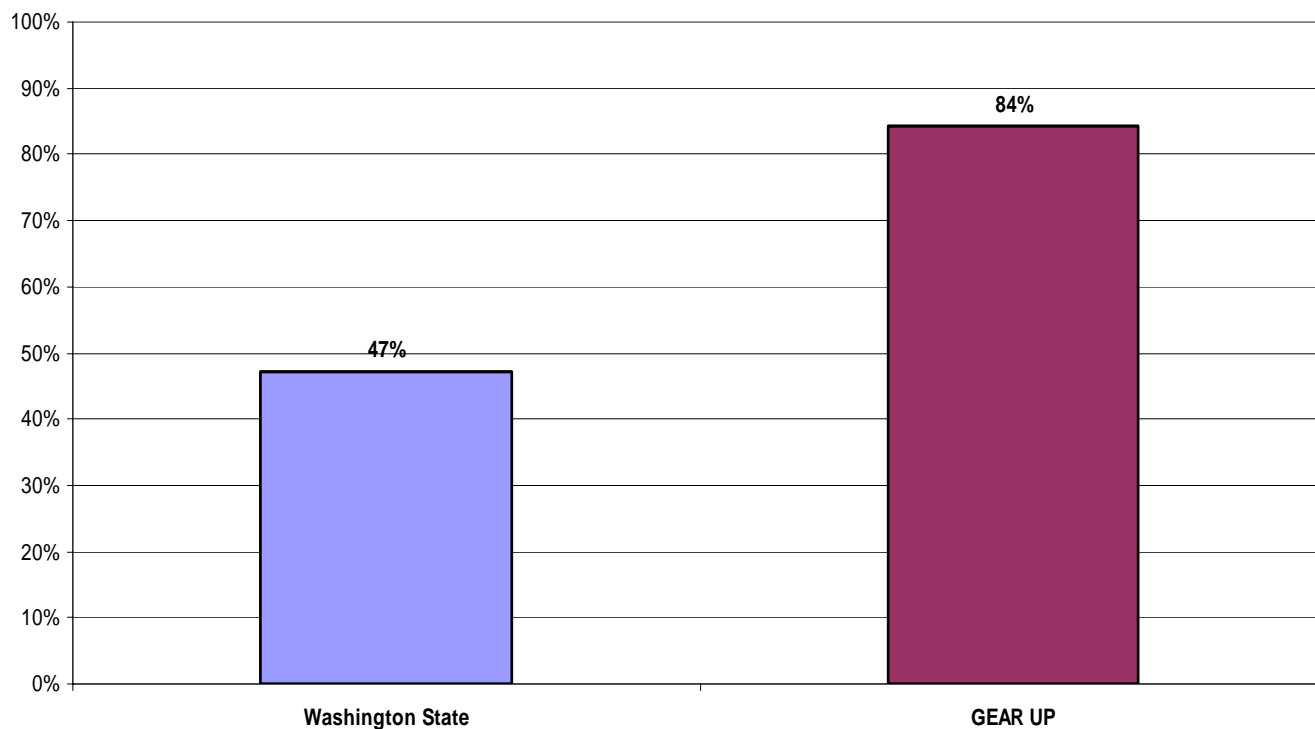
Washington State and GEAR UP College-going Rates Comparison



Data source: Social and Economic Sciences Research Center WSU <http://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/gfs/Default.asp>
HECB WA GEAR UP Program Records

Washington State and GEAR UP Hispanic Students Comparison

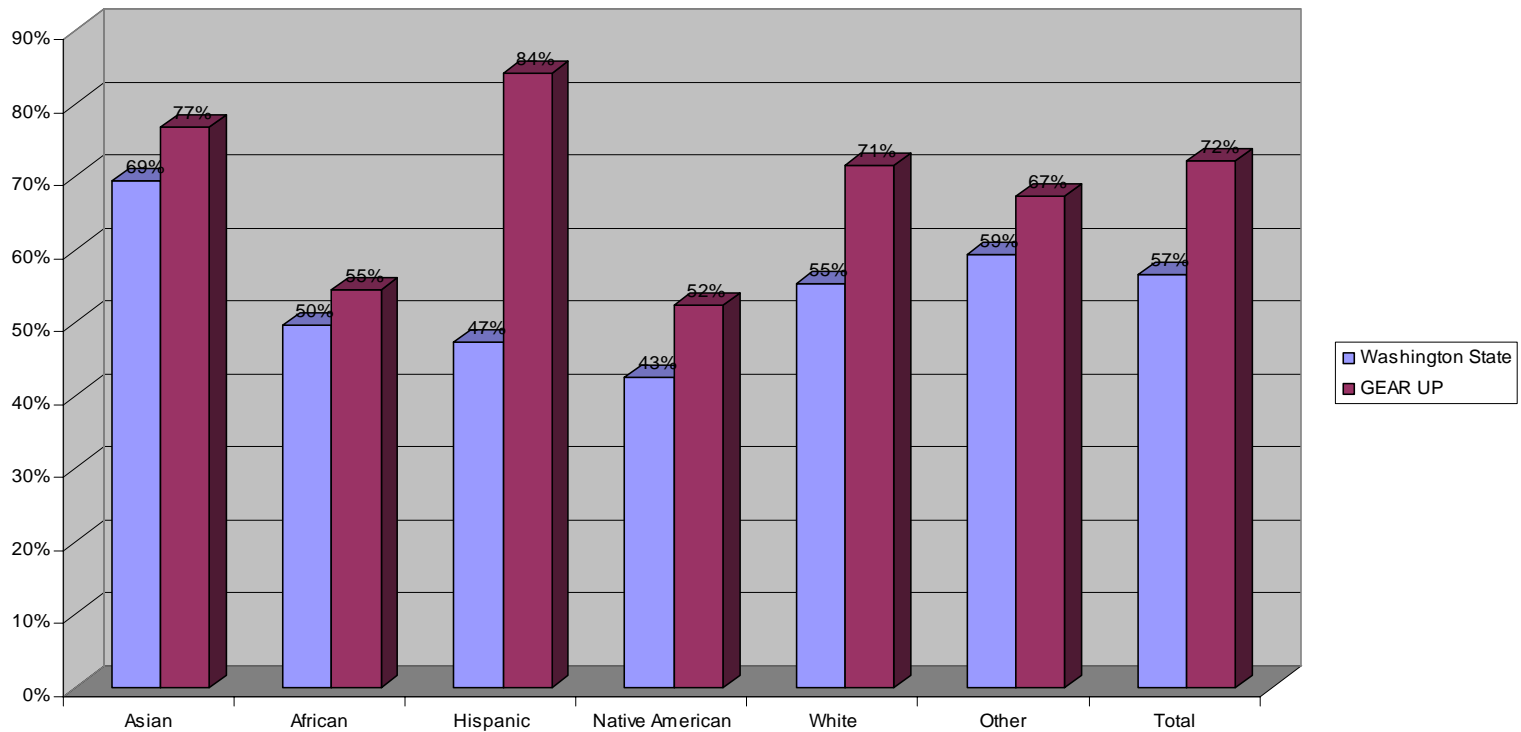
Washington State vs. GEAR UP
College Going Rates for Hispanic High School Graduates



Data source: Social and Economic Sciences Research Center, WSU <http://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/gfs/Default.asp>
HECB WA GEAR UP Program Records

Washington State and GEAR UP College-going by Ethnicity/Race (2000–2004)

Comparison



Data source: Social and Economic Sciences Research Center WSU <http://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/gfs/Default.asp>
HECB WA GEAR UP Program Records

Next Steps

- Gaps still exist in the state
- Expansion of GEAR UP services
- More outreach efforts